

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 84

By Miller

A RESOLUTION requesting the Congressional delegation of the State of Tennessee to support the President's medical malpractice reform proposals.

WHEREAS, a fair and efficient legal system free from frivolous and abusive litigation is necessary for a vibrant economy and access to affordable health care; and

WHEREAS, rapidly increasing medical malpractice awards are driving up malpractice insurance premiums, reducing access to health care, and fueling the rapid growth in health care costs; and

WHEREAS, frivolous medical lawsuits lead to hospitals closing their doors, doctors refusing to see new patients, and in some cases, force doctors to leave for other states; and

WHEREAS, reasonable caps on damages protect patients from the rising costs of and diminishing access to health care that result from lawsuit abuse; and

WHEREAS, victims who suffer losses, not their attorneys, should receive the majority of damage awards; and

WHEREAS, lawsuits filed in a timely fashion promote fairness for all parties; and

WHEREAS, medical malpractice reforms enacting caps on damages, allowing for the inclusion of collateral source payments in jury considerations, and imposing time limits on the filing of lawsuits will enhance access to health care, lower medical premiums, and lower the cost of health care; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee requests our elected

Representatives and Senators in the United States Congress to support meaningful medical malpractice liability reform.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation.